Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 089846

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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O 012346Z MAY 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 133

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: ALL PAPERS, EXCEPT CSM, CARRY TRAVELING REPORTERS ARTICLES ON TRIP, ALTHOUGH NEWS DOMINATED BY WHITE HOUSE RELEASE OF TRANSCRIPTS. FOCUS IS WARMTH OF RECEPTION IN EGYPT AND HAK'S "INCREASED HOPE" FOR DISENGAGEMENT FOLLOWING GENEVA AND ALGIERS. WIRE COVERAGE FAIR TO MODERATE. LEAD IS SADAT'S "FULL CONFIDENCE" IN SECRETARY; SADAT'S SPEECH; AND POSSIBILITY THAT ARMS RELATIONSHIP MIGHT BE DISCUSSED.

1. GWERTZMAN (NYT) PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD STORY "KISSINGER MEETING SADAT ON SYRIA DISENGAGEMENT" CHARACTERIZES FRIENDLY MOOD OF HAK-SADAT MEETING IN ALEXANDRIA WITH SADAT'S WORDS
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PAGE 02 STATE 089846

TO MRS. KISSINGER: "YOU'RE AMONG HENRY'S FAMILY." KISSINGER QUOTED IN ALGIERS EXPRESSING "INCREASED HOPE" FOR

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SUCCESSFUL DISENGAGEMENT AS RESULT OF "UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT" GIVEN BY BOUMEDIENE. ON SCENARIO FOR DISENGAGEMENT, AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY BOTH SIDES REJECTED PLANS SUBMITTED BY OTHER. SAME OFFICIALS REPORTED FAVORING ISRAELI PULLBACK TO EL QUNEITRA, WITH SYRIA DROPPING INSISTENCE ON MAJOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM 400 SQUARE MILES OCCUPIED IN 1967. AMERICAN OFFICIALS ALSO SEEN IN FAVOR OF PRISONER EXCHANGE IN EARLY PHASE OF DISENGAGEMENT ALONG WITH SIGNIFICANT UN PRESENCE IN BUFFER ZONE. ON AID TO EGYPT, OFFICIALS ON KISSINGER PLANE INSIST NO REQUEST RECEIVED FROM EGYPT FOR US ARMS AND ISSUE NOT A MAJOR TOPIC DURING PRESENT VISIT. GWERTZMAN HAS OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGING DECISION TO SEEK AID FOR EGYPT MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT EGYPTIAN COURSE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

2. BERGER STORY ON PAGE 13 OF POST: "HOPEFUL KISSINGER SEES SADAT," WITH PIX OF BEAMING HAK AND BOUMEDIENE SHAKING HANDS. LEADS WITH HAK'S "INCREASED HOPE" COMMENT ON MID-EAST PROSPECTS. REPORTERS TRAVELING WITH HAK TOLD BOTH SIDES MUST COMPROMISE, BUT APPARENTLY ISRAEL MUST MAKE FIRST MOVE. SENIOR OFFICIAL ON PLANE RECOGNIZES RISKS FOR ISRAEL IN WITHDRAWAL, BUT SAYS DEADLOCK RISKIER. BERGER CHARACTERIZES OPTIMISTIC MOOD OF ALEXANDRIA WHERE DISENGAGEMENT REPORTEDLY SEEN AS FAIT ACCOMPLI, IN CONTRAST TO HAK'S EMPHASIS ON COMPLEXITIES OF DISENGAGEMENT. ALSO, SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER REVEALS HAK MET WITH JEWISH LEADERS LAST THURSDAY TO ASSURE THEM OF HIS INTENTIONS.

3. JHABVALA IN GLOBE ARTICLE PAGE 15 (PIX OF SADAT GREETING HAK AND MRS. KISSINGER IN ALEXANDRIA) STRESSES OPTIMISTIC MOOD, UNPRECEDENTED WARMTH OF SADAT RECEPTION. IN JHABVALA'S WORDS, "HE (HAK) WAS RECEIVED WITH WARMTH THAT HAS NOT BEEN DISPLAYED IN PUBLIC BY ANY EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL IN OVER TWO DECADES." REPORTS HAK ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE SOVIETS AND ARABS THAT ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS CONTINUED TENSION AND CONFLICT.

4. O'LEARY STORY PAGE 4 UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER SLEIGHT-OF-
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PAGE 03 STATE 089846

HAND: SYRIA-ISRAEL DEAL APPEARS IN SIGHT," WITH PIX OF SADAT GREETING HAK AND MRS. KISSINGER. HAS HAK INCREASINGLY CERTAIN DISENGAGEMENT ATTAINABLE. SAYS SOME KISSINGER-WATCHERS FEEL NEXT STEPS ORCHESTRATED IN ADVANCE, AS IN PREVIOUS CASES OF SYRIAN POW LIST AND DATE FOR END OF OIL EMBARGO. DEDUCES HAK CAN SELL ISRAELIS ON FIRST-PHASE WITHDRAWAL IF PRISONER RELEASE ASCERTAINED. REPORTS HE WILL PRESS FOR INTERPOSITION OF UN FORCES RATHER THAN OBSERVERS.

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5. CSM CARRIES NO REPORT FROM SAIKOWSKI. PAGE 1 ARTICLE BY JOHN COOLEY DATELINED ALEXANDRIA.

6. AP - SCHWEID LEADS WITH SADAT'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE SECRETARY AND FACT HE IS FULLY CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL WORK OUT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. ACCORDING EGYPTIAN SOURCES, ONLY TWO OBSTACLES ARE LINKS TO FURTHER STEPS TOWARD PEACE AND CONTROL OF THREE VANTAGE POINTS WEST OF MT.

HERMON. AMERICAN SOURCES CAUTION, HOWEVER, NO DEAL IN OFF-ING AND PREDICT PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS. SCHWEID ALSO HAS SADAT SAYING US ARMS SUPPLIES MIGHT BE DISCUSSED.

UPI - (NO BYLINE) COVERS SAME GROUND AS AP. LEAD IS ALSO SADAT'S "FULL CONFIDENCE" IN SECRETARY. ALSO, AMERICAN SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED SECRETARY'S RETURN TO ALEXANDRIA AROUND NOON SATURDAY WITHOUT EXPLANATION EXCEPT THAT "THE SECRE-TARY CONSIDERS IT WORTHWHILE TO RETURN HERE.

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